

REMARKS

By this Amendment, independent Claim 1 has been amended to place this application in immediate condition for allowance.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 4-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In making this ground of rejection, the Examiner has alleged that the claim recites that the cross-linked ion-exchange resin is one of a cation-exchange resin or an anion-exchange resin and that this limitation is indefinite "as this would allow the membrane to have both anion and cation exchange resins and would thus interfere with the membrane being an anion exchange membrane OR cation exchange membrane." In order to overcome this ground of rejection, Claim 1 has been amended to now read as follows:

"wherein said cross-linked ion-exchange resin contained in said cation exchange membrane is a cation-exchange resin and said cross-linked ion exchange resin contained in said anion exchange membrane is an anion-exchange resin."

It is respectfully submitted that this amendment renders Claim 1 fully definite under the purview of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Support for this amendment is found in the Specification, for example, at page 11, lines 25-27, which read as follows:

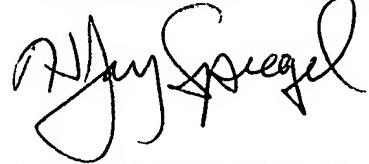
"The ion-exchange resin filled in the voids of the above porous film has a cation-exchange function or an anion-exchange function ...".

Accordingly, no new matter is entered by virtue of the above set forth amendment to independent Claim 1. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the ground of rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, has been satisfactorily overcome.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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